

## Obituary.

### LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR ARTHUR SLOGGETT, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.,

Late Director-General Army Medical Services.

As briefly announced in our last issue Lieut.-General Sir Arthur Thomas Sloggett, K.C.B., late Director-General of the Medical Services of the Army, died suddenly, aged 72, on November 27th, while walking with his son near Regent's Park. He was the son of the late Inspector-General W. H. Sloggett, R.N., and of his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Cornish-Crossing, J.P., of Stoke Damerel, Devon, and was born at Stoke Damerel on November 24th, 1857. He was educated at King's College, London, and took the diplomas of M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.R.C.P. Ed. in 1880. Entering the army as surgeon on February 5th, 1881, he attained the rank of colonel in less than twenty-three years, on September 8th, 1903, having had the good fortune to gain special promotion for war service on two occasions. He was specially promoted to surgeon lieutenant-colonel on November 18th, 1896, for his services in the Dongola campaign, and to the higher rate of pay as lieutenant-colonel on October 16th, 1898, for gallantry in the battle of Khartum. As colonel he served as principal medical officer of the London district. On May 13th, 1908, he was promoted to surgeon-general, and went to India as principal medical officer of Bombay, the 6th Division. On December 21st, 1911, he was appointed principal medical officer at headquarters in India, and Director of Medical Services in India; and on June 1st, 1914, was appointed Director-General of the Army Medical Services, with the rank of lieutenant-general, succeeding Sir Lance-lotte Gubbins in that post.

During the thirty-three years he had served in the army before becoming Director-General, he had seen a great deal of active service. In the Dongola campaign of 1896 he served as senior medical officer of British troops, was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of November 3rd, 1896, and was promoted to surgeon lieutenant-colonel, and received the Egyptian medal with a clasp, and the fourth class of the Osmanieh. In the Nile campaign of 1898 he served as senior medical officer of the 1st Brigade, British Division, and took part in the battle of Khartum, where he was dangerously wounded, and had his horse shot under him. He was himself shot through the chest by a bullet, which apparently should have pierced his heart, and used to account for his not being killed on the spot by saying that his heart must have been in his mouth at the time. For his services in the Nile campaign he was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of September 30th, 1898, and was specially promoted to the higher rate of pay as lieutenant-colonel, and received the medal for the campaign, a clasp to the Egyptian medal, and the third class of the Medjidieh. He then served in the South African war from 1899 to 1902, first in charge of the Imperial Yeomanry hospital, afterwards as principal medical officer of a general hospital, and as commandant of Deelfontein district. He took part in operations in the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, and Cape Colony, was mentioned in dispatches in the *London Gazette* of April 18th, 1901, and received the Queen's medal with three clasps, the King's medal with two clasps, and the C.M.G.



Two months after his appointment as Director-General the great war of 1914-18 began, and a month later he went to France as Director-General of the Medical Services of the British Armies in the field, and as Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross, and of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It was, of course, quite beyond the power of one man to fill these posts and at the same time carry on what might be called the ordinary work of Director-General. So, while Sloggett remained on active service, Sir Alfred Keogh rejoined the services from retirement to carry on the duties at home. In France Sloggett remained for nearly four years, until in June, 1918, his four years' term of office as Director-General came to an end. Many were at the time of opinion that he should have been specially retained in the post he had filled so well until the war came to an end; the authorities, however, decided otherwise, and he was placed on the retired list from June 1st, 1918. For his services during the war he was mentioned in dispatches seven times, in the *London Gazette* of February 17th, 1915, July 10th, 1915, January 4th, 1917, May 29th, 1917, December 24th, 1917, May 25th, 1918, and October 21st, 1918; and received the K.C.B. in 1915, the Legion of Honour, Grand Officer (2nd class), in 1915, the Order of King Leopold of Belgium, Commander (3rd class), in 1916, the K.C.M.G. and K.C.V.O. in 1917. Besides these honours he had been appointed a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in 1888, he received the C.B. in 1910, and in 1917 was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Sir Arthur Sloggett was a great administrator, as his work shows. He had the qualities of tact, tolerance of other people's opinions, and good capacity for business. Not only could he see things from another man's point of view, but he could induce other men to see them from the point of view of others, as well as their own. In the war he had serving under him a large number of men of great reputation in their profession in civil life, all entitled to consider

themselves leaders and experts in their own line: most of them quite ignorant, to start with, of military routine and military duties, but all anxious to do their best to help their country in its time of need. By his tact and capacity he got the best work out of all his staff, and made the medical services of the army work as one harmonious whole. When he laid down his office he addressed to the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, chairman of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John, a letter in which he characteristically gave all the credit for the successful running of the medical services in the war to those who had served under him.

In 1881 he married Helen, daughter of Mr. J. R. Boyson, formerly Solicitor-General of Madras, and had one son, Lieut.-Colonel A. J. H. Sloggett, D.S.O., late Rifle Brigade, and two daughters.

The funeral service was held in the chapel of the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, on December 2nd. The King was represented by Lieut.-General H. B. Fawcett, Director-General of Medical Services, the Duke of Connaught by Major-General Blackwell, and the Army Council by General Sir Walter Braithwaite, Adjutant-General to the Forces, and Sir Herbert Creedy, permanent Under Secretary of State for War. The interment afterwards took place at St. Peter's Church, Petersham.

We are indebted to Sir GEORGE MAKINS, G.C.M.G., Past-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, for the following appreciation:

Sir Arthur Sloggett's distinguished career in the medical services of the army will no doubt receive adequate notice in your columns, but a note embodying the impressions of a civilian surgeon who witnessed the part he took in the great war may not be out of place.

The early months were unfortunate for Sloggett in that after being responsible for the exacting duties concerned with the mobilization, he fell ill, and after a short interregnum Sir Alfred Keogh was recalled to take his place. When he had recovered, the somewhat hazardous experiment was decided upon of establishing a Director-General at the War Office and a Director-General Overseas, and it says much for the character of both these officers that the arrangement worked excellently well for the next three years. Sloggett was appointed to the latter post, and was sent to France, where he had to create and consolidate a novel position, a matter calling for tact and ripe judgement. The task was speedily accomplished, and it may well be that his new post was really better suited to his special capabilities than that at the War Office in London.

His success in the field, I think, depended mainly on two qualities: (a) his unusual capacity for drawing men together and inciting them to work harmoniously, and (b) the breadth of view with which he regarded proposals that might be made to him. In developing these two theses I would first dwell upon his shrewd judgement and knowledge of men; this aided him in the choice of his personal staff: each member was selected on account of special fitness, even including one who by his instinctive sense of regulations was competent on occasions to modify the somewhat generous promises made by his chief. He treated the members of his staff as personal friends, and I think no one could have been better served. He drew no distinction between civilian consultants or Territorial officers and those of the regular service; from either he was open to receive suggestions, and he made the best of the opportunities thus afforded. An effective liaison was developed between the British and Allied medical services which was of value in creating mutual respect and friendship. Lastly, from this point of view, the relations which he maintained with the various voluntary associations must be mentioned. He acted as the representative of the British Red Cross Society and of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and was accustomed to refer to the conjunction of these two bodies with the medical service as a "trinity." He was liberal in his dealings with the various voluntary hospitals, and there can be no doubt that as a consequence of the attitude he took up the British soldier got the greatest advantage he could from these sources.

Sloggett's breadth of view had far-reaching influence on the strictly professional work of the medical service. He was not bound by tradition or pride in the corps, but was keen and ready to receive suggestions from each and all. His common remark was "Let every man have his chance," and in consequence many valuable suggestions bore fruit. Not a little of the advance made in front line treatment, the special arrangements made for cranial and abdominal wounds, fractures, and burns were made possible by the facilities readily provided by the Director-General. Again, the same may be said of the various research units established, and in all these matters he was actively supported by his colleague Sir Alfred Keogh at the War Office.

Finally, I would like to add the testimony of an old friend to his delightful hospitality. All who had occasion to visit his headquarters were met with his genial smile and treated to the best he had to give. This genial reception, moreover, was not confined to the manners of the chief; his precept and example were adopted by every member of his staff, and many of us retain the happiest memories of our visits.

Lieut.-General Sir CHARLES BURTCHAELL, K.C.B., who succeeded Sir Arthur Sloggett as D.G.M.S. British Armies in France, writes:

Sir Arthur Sloggett was unquestionably the most remarkable and the best known of a small group of distinguished men who were the outcrop of some 109 officers commissioned

in the year 1881 into what afterwards became the Royal Army Medical Corps, and who, having taken part in all British campaigns since 1882, came to hold positions of high importance and responsibility during the great war. Such were, to mention but a few, Major-Generals W. Babbie, T. P. Woodhouse, T. J. O'Donnell, M. W. O'Keeffe, R. H. S. Sawyer, R. Porter, W. G. A. Bedford, and W. G. Birrell. Arthur Sloggett conformed to no type in character or temperament, and those who knew him best and understood the soul within the man will no doubt agree with me, who was his intimate assistant for many years, and his fast friend up to the end, that they never met any other man quite like him in any sphere of life. But, lest there should be a wrong impression of what we, who were in close touch with him, thought, let me say at once we loved him and served him loyally and cheerfully. Why? Because we knew that behind all his actions and thoughts was a good nature of unusual stability, a genuinely kind heart, and an earnest desire to help in any possible way to bring happiness to his fellow men, and that he never bent to crooked ways. His gay vitality was infectious and created an atmosphere of happiness for his immediate entourage in France. But long before he came prominently before the public eye as Director of Medical Services of the British Armies fighting in that country, he had done much to earn the esteem, gratitude, and affection of the Royal Army Medical Corps as an administrator in London, Poona, and of His Majesty's Forces in India. He ever had the advancement of the work of the corps at heart, and was unfailing in his efforts to promote contentment among those serving under him. He was instrumental in bringing together in India some of the best athletic teams which the corps produced.

He was a remarkably shrewd judge of men and of the vagaries of human nature. His power as a peacemaker was unique among men in his position. Should a cloud of dissension arise among any set of people of any station in any part of the vast machine under his direction, it was dissipated quicker than it came through his tact and kindly bright manner and shrewd common sense, which he administered with a resourcefulness quite outside the capacity of most men. If a disagreeable thing had to be done it was accomplished in such kindly settings that as a rule no unpleasant taste was left, and, generally speaking, the victim emerged with a feeling that he could not have been better treated. Of course, in the position Sloggett occupied he would not have been human if he did not occasionally commit an error of judgement or allow his exuberant spirits to carry him over the borderline which some people marked out as the limit of circumspect discretion. Still, his errors were very few and very trivial, and his lapses quite harmless and laughable, and in their sum total counted as nothing compared with the high and progressive standard of efficiency he maintained through the influence of his personality over all those who were in control of this or that in the multitude of sectors which made up the organizations for the relief of the human sufferings brought about by the war.

His part in working up into friendly co-operation the functions of the medical elements of the Regular Army with those of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, and creating a single harmonious body out of the consultants of various grades, is well known. Supposing we put the question to those in the best position to know: "Would the lamentable amount of suffering endured by the gallant men who held the line in France throughout those three and a half years of war have been less had someone other than Sir Arthur Sloggett directed the medical services?" The answer will undoubtedly be, "No, and it might have been more." His breezy cheerfulness lasted up to his retirement from France. The time between the date of the War Office notification and his departure was about five days, during which the medical services were brought nearest to a point of failure ever reached. The best part of five British Divisions operating with the French had been driven out of their positions and thousands of British soldiers were scattered through French army hospitals even as far south as Biarritz. The 20,000 beds at the Etaples base had been put out of action by enemy bombers, who destroyed the railway. Sir Arthur

in this period packed up and left, saying, "Well, dear old boy, I hand over to you. Good luck."

After the war Sir Arthur held the appointment of Colonel Commandant R.A.M.C. for several years, and up to his death he was, as always, in close touch with everything of interest to the corps he loved so well. Only a few weeks ago he said to me, "I may go out any day, but never mind, I have had a good life." He thus looked to the end of this earthly sojourn with the cheerful courage which carried him so usefully and gallantly through life. We are glad he died in the way he expected and wished to die, without pain or suffering, and we say "Vale" with an affection and remembrance that cannot be effaced.

Lieut.-Colonel A. E. J. LISTER, I.M.S. (ret.), sometime surgeon to H.E. the Commander-in-Chief in India, writes:

Many will write of Sir Arthur Sloggett's brilliant achievements. May I just pay a personal tribute as showing his relations with his junior officers? I was his medical attendant in Simla for some slight ailments, and saw a good deal of him in 1912-13. Though I was a junior captain and he was the Director of Medical Services, he was quite one of the most considerate of my patients. He knew the life of a staff surgeon was at times difficult, in the hills. For a slight service, a little beyond the actual scope of my duties, for which some men in his position would have barely thanked me, he gave me a handsome piece of plate. This was typical of the man. It was his kindly consideration which endeared him to his juniors. He never made one feel one was under his orders. He was indeed what we called in India a "pucca Sahib" to work under.

[The photograph reproduced is by Elliott and Fry, London.]

#### LAURENCE BALL, M.D., F.R.C.P.,

Joint Professor of Medicine in Birmingham University, and Physician to the Queen's Hospital.

We regret to announce that Professor Laurence Ball died at his consulting rooms in Newhall Street, Birmingham, on Wednesday, November 20th. He had previously appeared to be in his usual health, and his death came unexpectedly and with tragic swiftness.

Laurence Ball was born in Birmingham in 1884, and was the only son of an architect in that city. He received his medical education in the Birmingham Medical School, and graduated M.B., B.S.Lond. in 1907; four years later he obtained the diploma L.R.C.P., and in 1921 he proceeded M.D.Lond., winning the University gold medal. In May, 1928, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. His resident appointments included: house-physician and house-surgeon at the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Sick Children; house-physician at the Queen's Hospital for one year; and resident medical officer at the Birmingham General Hospital for one year. After holding these he undertook post-graduate study in London: His first honorary appointment brought him to the staff of the Queen's Hospital as pathologist and assistant physician; he became honorary physician to the same hospital in 1926, the year in which he was appointed joint professor of medicine in the University of Birmingham, after having held for several years a lectureship in pathology.

His interests and activities were wide and varied. He maintained his early interest in pathology, and was a member of the Pathological Society of Great Britain. The legal aspect of medicine also occupied much of his thought, and he was a member of the Medico-Legal Society. He was a member of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland. His service during the war took him to France and Italy, and covered almost the whole period of the conflict. He gained the Military Cross, and was mentioned in dispatches by General Sir H. C. O. Plumer for gallantry in the field while serving with the Midland Casualty Clearing Station.

Laurence Ball was a cultured and travelled man, with a keen and discriminating artistic sense which guided him in letters, in music, and in a lively appreciation of the best in art and architecture. A large company, representing all sections of the University and his medical colleagues, assembled at the funeral to honour his passing.

Sir CHARLES GRANT ROBERTSON, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, writes:

Laurence Ball was essentially a son of the city of Birmingham and of its University and Medical School. I first came into close personal touch with him some five years ago in two ways—as a member of the board of management of the Queen's Hospital, and in connexion with the big scheme, now, I hope, approaching fruition, for a new teaching hospital and the reorganization of our Medical School, in which I was both officially and personally deeply interested. Shortly after that he was appointed one of our joint professors of medicine—at a considerably earlier age than usual—but the appointment was a proof of the position which he had already won for himself, despite his great modesty. I cannot, of course, speak with any specialist knowledge of his professional skill and clinical ability; but for us laymen, both at the Queen's Hospital and in the University, it was clear that all who were best qualified to judge regarded his future in his profession as already assured. Ball threw himself with a fine loyalty into all his professorial work. Again I cannot speak from direct knowledge; but I have every reason to know that he was an able and inspiring teacher, and very popular with the students in his faculty. He served on the University Library Committee, and was a great help in every way; and I had many occasions to discuss with him large issues of policy in connexion with the new hospital scheme and the Medical School, to which he brought a deep interest in the development of medical science, a wide clinical outlook, and a real grip of principles. He had a high sense of duty, and always conveyed—without ever mentioning it—his recognition of what was incumbent on him, not merely as a professor of medicine, but as an officer of the University. I regard his premature death as a very heavy blow to medical science and our Medical School, for he had just reached the age when for the next fifteen years or so he would have been able to give us of his best—and it would be his best that he would always have given. Naturally shy and retiring, he opened out wonderfully when you came to know him, and the better I knew him the more I was impressed with his knowledge, his judgement, and the real charm of character that underlay his modesty.

Mr. A. W. NUTHALL writes:

Ball joined up early in August, 1914, and went to France with the South Midland Casualty Clearing Station in April, 1915, being stationed at Hazebrouck, Amiens, and somewhere near Corbie until the middle of 1915, when, at his own request, he joined a battalion as regimental medical officer and went to Italy. He served for the full duration of the war. His professional interests were aroused and his outstanding ability exerted to its utmost by the problems presented by war conditions. The effects of chlorine gas (April, 1915) he investigated with the utmost thoroughness; the psycho-neurological symptoms of shock and fatigue, chest wounds, trench fever, were all matters of deep concern to him professionally. He found time to do necropsies under the most awkward conditions, and to keep notes on his cases. To his colleagues he was most helpful both in advice and practice (when he fell to and did a bit of surgery or gave anaesthetics). That he carried out his regimental duties with equal success was recognized by the award of the M.C. in Italy. But to those who knew Ball under war conditions the memory is not of the student, but of the personality of the man. Steady and unperturbed, with a sense of humour that met occasions of formality and of stress alike, a capacity to make the best of, and add spice to, any situation, Ball displayed, in company with his intimates, a side to his character in keeping with his red hair and twinkling blue eyes. He brightened the war for many of us, and, in the words of the senior service, pulled his weight and was a good messmate.

Dr. J. G. EMANUEL writes:

The sudden and untimely death of Laurence Ball is an irreparable loss to the Birmingham Medical School. Young as he was, his profound knowledge and mature judgement caused him to be much sought after both by the medical and the legal profession. In times of sickness his medical